

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Cavan Sullivan

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois
State Museum's *Agriculture in Illinois* Oral History project
Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-055

Cavan Sullivan, who farms nears Petersburg, Illinois and raises wild game for sale, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and IL State Museum's *of Agriculture in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: June 19, 2008

Location: Petersburg Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Michael Maniscalco

Technical Support: Dr. Robert Warren, camera

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Michael Maniscalco and Amy Abruzzo

Video indexed by: James Oliver

Total Pages: 38 Total Time: 0:48 + 0:57 + 1:26 / 0.8 + 0.95 + 1.43 = 3 hr 11 min /
3.18 hr

Session 1: Growing up on the family farm and beginning a specialty farm

Session 2: Raising pheasants, whitetail deer and bison on a diversified farm

Session 3: Walking tour of the farm, with deer, pheasants and bison

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 07/29/2009.

Interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield,
Illinois.

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Abstract

Cavan Sullivan, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-055

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Cavan Sullivan was born on April 10, 1983 in Petersburg, Illinois. Cavan's family originated in Ireland and fled to the United States in the mid 1800s due to the potato famine. The Sullivan family has been involved in agriculture ever since. He discussed in detail growing up on the farm.

Cavan knew he had to pay for his own college education, and turned to his involvement in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H as a possible way to pay for school. He settled on raising pheasants after finishing third in the FFA national level project competitions. Since that time the farm has changed from a conventional operation of cows and crops to a farm specializing in raising wildlife. Cavan's primary interest is pheasants, a possible subject for his Masters thesis in Biology. Over time, he has diversified his operation to include bison meat production and whitetail deer urine collection for hunters.

Topics Covered: Irish potato famine; family history in Illinois; wild game farming; raising pheasant; raising bison; raising whitetail deer; deer urine; Future Farmers of America (FFA); 4-H; financing school through agriculture;

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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